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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3005

January 3, 2019

The Honorable Catherine McCabe
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 E. State St.
7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner McCabe:

Thank you for accompanying me to the site of the Waste Mountain at 3 Silver Spruce Drive in Vernon on December 3, 2018. As was clear from our tour, this stockpile of solid waste presents a serious danger to the surrounding community. The illegal solid waste stored there is deeply hazardous, and as tests have shown, is contributing to severely elevated levels of lead in adjacent water sources.

As I explained in previous correspondences, there is ample evidence that concentrated levels of solid waste are being stored at the stockpile, which require additional testing.

Additionally, as the Director of Enforcement noted during the aforementioned site visit, DEP presumed that the Vernon Waste Mountain was classified as holding “Class B recycling material” (as defined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection), given the existence of waste materials in plain sight.

Class B recycling material includes, but is not limited to, waste concrete, asphalt, brick, block, and other items resulting from construction. Several online advertising postings show that the operator of the stockpile has promoted the site as a depository for waste from construction sites in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area.

All Class B recycling facilities are subject to approval by the municipality, county, and DEP. After our own investigation, we found that the Vernon Waste Mountain at 3 Silver Spruce Drive has not received approval from any of these required entities. As such, I respectfully urge you to use your enforcement authority to examine the manifests of incoming trucks, and promptly halt all further unlicensed dumpings until proper testing can be done. Vernon residents have the right to know what hazardous materials are coming into their town and contaminating their land and drinking water.

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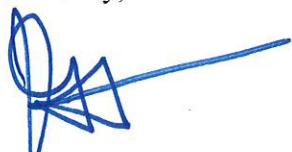
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Thank you for your cooperation on this pressing issue. I remain deeply opposed to those trying to make New Jersey an illicit dumping ground, putting our children and families at risk of contamination from lead and other dangerous toxins. I look forward to hearing back from you and continuing to partner with DEP to stop the illegal waste dumping and protect Vernon families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Gottheimer".

Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS